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Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

14th September hailed as National Hindi day.

Entire nation acknowledged the richness of Hindi language in form of Hindi Day celebration. In 1949 the Constituent Assembly adopted Devanagari script of Hindi as the official language of the country. On this occasion Rajbhasha awards instituted by Department of Official Language of Home Ministry were distributed at Raj Bhavan to applaud the excellent contribution of Ministries, Departments and Nationalized Banks in the field of Hindi. Home Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized on increasing use of Hindi language in official work.

DHFL board received Rajiv Kumar's resignation.

On 11th September Niti Aayog's Rajiv Kumar resigned from the third largest home loan & housing finance company of India, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) board. He has been the independent director of this company and has resigned due to his appointment as Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog. He is well known economist who succeeded Arvind Panagariya as Niti Aayog's Vice Chairman. The big shot was allied to Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Ministry of Finance, Indian Ministry of Industries, the Asian Development Bank, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Riyadh, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and Asia in Jakarta, the State Bank of India, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in past.

15th September geared as Engineer's Day.

India celebrated the 156th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya as Engineer's Day on 15th September 2017. Several iconic constructions of India are credentials of this great engineer. Glimpse of his engineering career shows that in 1884 he started his career as an Assistant Engineer with Public Works Department (PWD) at Mumbai (then Bombay) then later as a Public Works Department engineer, he did many large scale projects related to maintenance of public buildings, road construction and laying out city developments plans in various key towns. Later he joined the Indian Irrigation Commission.

Pavani Parameswara Rao broke law of life.

On 13th September, 84 year old Constitutional law expert Pavani Parameswara Rao died of cardiac arrest in New Delhi. As a lawyer, the doyen argued landmark cases before the Apex Court. The deceased will be in memory for making significant contribution in development of the argument against the legal challenge to President's Rule in four Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states viz. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, after demolition of the Babri Masjid in year 1992. He drafted an argument based on secularism which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution and convinced the Court that all the four BJP Governments had acted in concert and violated the basic feature of secularism by mobilising, encouraging and supporting the Kar Sevaks who demolished Babri Masjid and the Apex Court upheld all the four Proclamations without any dissent solely on this ground. He was well acknowledged with the Padma Bhushan (2006) and LL.D. (Honoris Causa) (2010) for his eminence and contributions to the cause of public interest.

First Odia language university is on verge of manifestation.

On 14th September the Odisha government approved bill for setting up first Odia language university in Bhubaneswar. The proposed university will have post-graduate courses in literature, linguistics and epigraphy. It will also administer PG courses in archaeology, literary criticism, evolution of east Indian language scripts, historical scripts, musicology and translation into and from Odia. The proposed university will try its best to

make Odia script more adaptable to computer technology. It is worth remembering that Odia became the sixth language of the country to get classical language status.

'Maharashtra Mission 1 Million' made its way.

On 15th September Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis launched 'Maharashtra Mission 1 Million' initiative for encouraging sport of football in the state. The mission has come to support the upcoming FIFA U17 World Cup which will roll in October 2017 in Maharashtra for the first time. The initiative is likely to influence more than 10 lakh students across the state. On this occasion the state government distributed 1 lakh footballs in more than 30000 schools. On the inaugural day itself around 1 million kids, students from various schools including visually challenged played football creating history.

Marshal of Indian Air Force Arjan Singh completed his earthly sojourn.

On 16th September 98 year old, Marshal of Indian Air Force, Arjan Singh died of heart attack in New Delhi. Arjan Singh had led the fly-past of more than a hundred IAF aircraft over the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day, August 15, 1947. In year 2002, on the occasion of Republic Day, the honorary rank of Marshal, the highest military rank was conferred upon him. With that he became the first officer of the IAF to receive this promotion at par with a General. It is worth knowing that prior to him only two Army chiefs, K M Cariappa and Sam Manekshaw, had achieved this rank of Marshal. Arjan was also honored with Padma Vibhushan for his meritorious services during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. He also served as a member of the Minorities Commission and as the Lt Governor of Delhi in past.

Intelligence wing of SSB is knocking the door.

On 18th September Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh began Intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) in New Delhi. The intelligence wing is meant to provide actionable information that will be useful for this Central Armed Police Force. WARB app has been launched to facilitate retired CAPFs and Assam Rifles personnel to get their grievances addressed, seek skill development and other relevant and important information. Besides this 1984 batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer, Rajni Kant Mishra has been appointed as the new chief of the SSB. He has taken place of Archana Ramasundaram. SSB guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal.

India's father of nephrology crossed filter of life.

On 17th September Dr Kirpal Chugh, India's father of nephrology, died of blood cancer at 85. After completing his MBBS from Government Medical College, Patiala, he was bent upon doing his MD thesis in chronic kidney disease which was not acknowledged as a specialty by the researchers of that time. But he pioneered seminal work on nephrology in 1958 which became the first systematic study in the field of kidney diseases in India and it enabled him to become the first "qualified" nephrologist in the country in year 1961. He single handedly separated nephrology from medicine and developed it into super-specialty in the country. 72 Doctorate in Medicine are credentials of his 30 year long career at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. He retired in 1993. The deceased was well acknowledged with Padma Shri (2000); Bhishma Pitamah Award; the International Society of Nephrology included him amongst the first 50 legends in Nephrology worldwide and he became the first Indian to receive the Bywaters Award by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN).

Y C Modi , the new man of NIA.

On 18th September the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed 1984 batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre as new chief 'officer on special duty' of National Investigation Agency (NIA). He will

hold the post till his superannuation, i.e. May 31st, 2021. Currently the appointed man is serving in capacity of special director in the Central Bureau of Investigation. In past he was part of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team that probed the 2002 Gujarat riot cases. He will succeed Sharad Kumar on October 30th as per the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

MS Dhoni : Nominated for Padma Bhushan Award.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been nominated for the country's third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan for his great contribution in the cricket. BCCI has only sent one name for the Padma Bhushan award this year and it was a unanimous decision to nominate India's most successful captain. He is the only Indian captain with two World titles 2011 50-over World Cup and 2007 World T20. MS Dhoni has 16 international hundreds along with 100 international half-centuries. As a wicketkeeper, he has taken 584 catches in all formats of cricket. The 36-year-old has scored 9737 runs in 302 ODIs besides 4876 runs in 90 Test matches. He has also played 78 T20 Internationals, notching up 1212 runs. Dhoni is already a recipient of the prestigious Arjuna, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and the Padma Shri award.

First State to Set Up Family Welfare Committees.

On 18th September 2017, Tripura has become the first state in the country to set up family welfare district committees to examine the complaints of women against their husbands and in-laws and find an amicable solution. Tripura High Court is the first high court among 24 high courts of the country that has constituted the family welfare district committees. The new system would be valid for the next six months and after that National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) would submit a report of its performance to the apex court, on the basis of which a new course of action would be decided.

Rajat Sharma: Elected as the new President of News Broadcasters Association.

On 20th September 2017, Rajat Sharma, chairman and editor-in-chief of India TV has been unanimously elected as the new President of the News Broadcasters Association (NBA). He had served as the President of the NBA from 2014 to 2016. He replaced Ashok Venkatramani, former chief executive officer of ABP News Network Pvt Ltd, who stepped down in September 2016. Besides this, M.V. Shreyams Kumar, joint managing director of Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. has been elected as the new vice-president of NBA .

17 Government Presses got pressed into 5 units.

On 20th September the Union Cabinet gave nod to merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs) into 5 units. This modernisation of the Presses is on purpose of undertaking important confidential, urgent and multi-colour printing work of the Central Government Offices across the country. The process will be carried out without any retrenchment at zero cost to the exchequer. The final five government press units are slated to appear at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri in Delhi; Nashik, Maharashtra and at Temple Street of Kolkata, West Bengal. The 56.67 acres of the Government of India Text Books Presses (GITBPs) of Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Mysuru will get back to the respective State Governments and land measuring 468.08 acres of the other merged Presses will become asset of Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development.

B Sambamurthy: The new NPCI interim Board chairman.

On 21st September the Board of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) appointed B Sambamurthy as interim Chairman of the Board. He has succeeded Balachandran M. The appointee is former Director and CEO of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and has also been the Chairman and

Managing Director of Corporation Bank in past. He has also been the Nominee Director from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the board of NPCI since December 5, 2013. NPCI is the apex organisation for all retail payment systems in India.

INS Kalvari has touched Indian water.

On 21st September indigenously built Stealth Submarine, INS Kalvari has navigated its way to Indian navy. Kalvari is first of the six Scorpene-class submarines which is being built under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Ltd. and it has been named after the dreaded deep sea predator Tiger Shark. The stealth boat will function as force multiplier for the Navy by launching massive attacks using precision guided weapons. It has a range of 12,000 km, allowing for a wide area of operation.

MS Subbulakshmi came on coins.

India celebrated Birth Centenary of legendary Indian musician MS Subbulakshmi on 19th September 2017. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a Commemorative Coin in her memory. The Bharat Ratna defined the rich heritage of Indian music and had deep understanding of Indian music that has its roots buried in Vedic literature, in Sama Veda specifically. The iconic figure was not only a singer but was an encyclopaedia of singing. She It is worth remembering here that she was the first musician who received Bharat Ratna award which is the country's highest civilian honour and the first Indian musician who had performed at the United Nations General Assembly on the United Nation's 50th anniversary.

Himachal Pradesh hailed electric bus service.

On 21st September Himachal Pradesh launched electric bus service and with that it became the first state of India to do so. State Transport Minister GS Bali and Kullu Deputy Commissioner, Yunus inaugurated this first-of-its-kind electric bus service across 51km-long stretch between Manali and Rohtang Pass at an altitude of 13000 feet. The move will curb environmental degradation in form of carbon emission in the Rohtang Pass area. Under this service there would be a total of 10 battery-operated buses in the fleet. Each electric bus would have the capacity of seating 30 passengers. The fare is likely to be marginally higher than the diesel buses.

Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu: Mizoram's first woman minister.

On September 22nd the only woman legislator of Mizoram, Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu became Mizoram's first woman minister since the 1987 state assembly elections. The privileged lady has become part of Lal Thanhawla's cabinet. Her oath was administered by Mizoram governor Lt. Gen. Nirbhay Sharma (Rtd) at Raj Bhavan. Chawngthuis is the daughter of senior Congress leader and former minister C Chawngkunga. Currently she is the chairperson of Mizoram state commission for women. The lady is the second woman in Mizoram to hold ministerial post after Lalhlimpuii Hmar, who became minister in 1987. With that the counting of ministers has become 12 in Mizoram.

Birth centenary of Deendayal Upadhyaya spelled rebirth for Prisoners.

On 25th September 2017, birth centenary of RSS ideologue, Deendayal Upadhyaya, Uttar Pradesh government released more than 100 prisoners from various jails. Among them around 80 prisoners have completed their quantum of punishment but as they failed to deposit the monetary fine they were behind the bars. They belonged to Lucknow, Varanasi, Faizabad, Mathura, Agra, Kanpur, Naini, Aligarh, Banda, Mirzapur, Orai, Hardoi, Maharajganj, Bahraich, Saharanpur, Gorakhpur Bareilly, Fatehgarh and Naini jails. Besides them 20 prisoners who were serving life imprisonment have also got released. This was not a new trend of celebrating birth anniversaries of popular figures as in past during the Samajwadi Party government, elderly undertrials were

released on the occasion of Independence Day and birth anniversary of SP ideologue Dr Ram Manohar Lohia. Mayawati also had ordered release of 4,000 prisoners to mark the formation of her government in 2007.

Masala bonds will be in guise of ECBs.

From 3rd October 2017 rupee-denominated overseas bonds, also known as masala bonds will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB). With this move Reserve Bank has freed up more investments by FPIs. It is worth knowing here that External commercial borrowing (ECBs) are loans in India made by non-resident lenders in foreign currency to Indian borrowers. They are used widely in India to facilitate access to foreign money by Indian corporations and Public Sector Undertakings. Currently, the limit for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds is Rs 2,44,323 crore. This encompasses issuance of masala bonds by resident entities of Rs 44,001 crore, including the ones in pipeline. Now after this move of RBI masala bonds will no longer form part of the limit for FPI investments in corporate bonds. Around 44,001 crore rupees arising out of shifting of masala bonds will be released for Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) investment in corporate bonds over the next two quarters and FPI investment limit for corporate bonds will climb to Rs 2,44,323 crore from 1st January . A sum of Rs 9,500 crore in each quarter will be available only for investment in the infrastructure sector by long-term FPIs.

Tripura soiled a new underground water treatment plant.

In September 2017, Tripura witnessed inauguration of a new underground water treatment plant at Sadhutilla in southern part of Agartala. The State Urban Development department has begun this plant to eliminate contamination of iron from drinking water. With treatment capacity of 4.8 million litres per day the plant will treat surface water and deep tube wells which will be supplied to 2500 connections at households, schools, markets and institutions of 13 small residential settlements. The project has come via courtesy of Asian Development Bank and State Urban Development department and which shared its expenditure of Rs 4 Crore and 99 lakh in 70:30 percent ratio respectively.

Research at CIDR coupled Infosys & IISc.

On 25th September the philanthropic arm of Infosys, Infosys Foundation and public university for research and higher education in all science and engineering disciplines, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore inked an MoU worth 5 crore for enhancement of infrastructure and broadening research activities at the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR). 25 faculty members and 250 students at IISc will be beneficiaries of this MoU as the five crore rupees grant will be used for research, training and creating awareness about infectious diseases. This association will facilitate an interdisciplinary approach, with a focus on research about infectious diseases which will lead to the development of new drug targets, drug delivery systems and novel diagnostic tools.

Apex Court sprinkled Colors of MBBS for Color Blinds.

September 2017 added colors of medical stream in lives of two color blind students as the Apex Court granted admission to them in MBBS. The obliged students have scored high marks in the entrance examination conducted by the Tripura government in 2015 during the pre-NEET period. But without any statutory provision various colleges under umbrella of Medical Council of India (MCI) refused admissions to them on account of their colour blindness. The apex court in its verdict terming its action as “transcendental importance of justice” granted admission to the students employing special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. In this context the expert committee constituted by court recommended “testing of Colour Vision Deficiency by Ishihara test be compulsorily incorporated in the format of General Physical Examination of the Student, so that all medical

students with suspect colour vision should be aware of severity of their deficiency before entering the medical course, and the kind of problems it may pose in the career they have opted”. This committee comprised of doctors from AIIMS and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, amicus curiae senior advocate K V Vishwanathan and Shoeb Alam

ONGC greeted Shashi Shankar, the new CMD.

India's biggest oil and gas producer, ONGC will witness Shashi Shankar on post of CMD from 1st October. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment. He will take place of Dinesh K Sarraf for upcoming four-years until March 2021. Currently the appointee is serving as technical and field service director of ONGC.

Government accommodated Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System.

On 26th September Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System in New Delhi. The system is on purpose of simplifying the Warehouse Registration Rules, digitizing the whole process of registration, monitoring and surveillance as well as creating and managing Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (NWRs) in electronic form via two repositories. This e-NWR will facilitate an easy pledge financing by banks and other financial institutions plus it will smooth trading on several trading centres viz. commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) and other electronic platforms.

Kandla Port got christened as Deendayal Port.

In September 2017 the Ministry of Shipping changed name of Kandla Port Trust as ‘Deendayal Port Trust’ under Indian Ports Act, 1908. It is one of the twelve major ports in the nation that is situated on the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat. Built in 1950s, it is the largest port of India by volume of cargo it handled. In recent years it has emerged as India's busiest major port which added substantial cargo handling capacity with private sector participation. The past accomplishment of the port reveals that on 31st March 2016 this port became the first Major Port that took care of 100 million tons freight in a year.

Global Competitiveness Index placed India at 40th Spot.

On 27th September the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2017-18 got released in which India occupied 40th position among 137 nations while in context to BRICS countries on the Global Competitiveness Index, India grabbed the 3rd spot. Switzerland, United States and Singapore topped the index. China was spotted at 27th position and Russia stuck to 38th rank. It is worth knowing here that through this index the GCI measured the factors that are crucial to future productivity and prosperity of the countries and highlighted how 10 years after the 2008 global crisis the financial sector is still vulnerable and unprepared for the next wave of innovation and automation. In this index the GCI had analysed the nations on parameters of institutions, infrastructure, health and primary education, financial market development, labour market efficiency, technological readiness and market size.

28th September came as 13th Formation Day of NDMA.

National Disaster Management Authority celebrated its 13th Formation Day on 28th September 2017. The theme for this year was ‘School Safety’. Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the event in presence of NDMA members and officials, senior officials from HRD Ministry, NDRF, NIDM, officials from Central and

state governments, Municipal commissioners, district collectors and representatives from NGOs, NCERT and educational institutions. The event witnessed lengthy discussions for ensuring safe environment to school children. Prior to this in February 2016 to strengthen the risk resilience of schools across the country, the disaster management authority released the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety Policy.

The echo from IITs.....

In September 2017 IIT Roorkee's students Ekdeep Lubana, Ankit Bagaria, Utkarsh Seth Saxena and Anisha Godha developed affordable soil testing solutions 'Solving Nitrogen Application Problems' (SNAP) to raise crop productivity with balanced use of fertilisers. 'SNAP' is on purpose of 'Smart Soil Analysis'. The application is meant to guide farmers on how much fertiliser is to be used on the basis of analysis of the leaves. The optical imaging application can fix the optimum fertiliser input by 'Multi-spectral imaging' of crop leaves. It is a programmed camera module, used to click the image of leaves to find out the nitrogen content in the soil. The invention fetched 25,000 Euros to SNAP team in form of Ericsson Innovation Awards 2017. Apart from this Professor Dr Rajendra Srivastava of IIT Ropar won NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award 2017 for his leading contribution in 'heterogeneous catalysis' in Chemistry. He worked on synthesis and applications of microporous and mesoporous crystalline materials like zeolites, metal oxides, polyaniline, hybrid organo-inorganic materials (metal organic framework), and carbon materials. In 2006 Catalysis Society of India conferred the Best Thesis Award upon him.

Makhan Lal Fotedar breathed his last breath.

Veteran Congress leader Makhan Lal Fotedar passed away on 28th September. The deceased was a close confidante of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi in Gurugram. He belonged to Kashmir, Fotedar, joined politics in early 1950s and gradually strengthened his position in the Congress to become one of the most powerful persons in the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party.

Niti Aayog will Organise Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

Niti Aayog will host the 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad from 28th November 2017 to 30th November 2017. For the first time, the Global Entrepreneurship Summit will be held in South Asia. The theme for this year's summit is "Women First, Prosperity for All". The four primary focus areas of the summit 2017 are healthcare and life sciences, digital economy and financial technology, energy and infrastructure, and media and entertainment. GES 2017 will empower Indian entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas, build partnerships, secure funding, and create innovative products and services that will transform societies for a better future.

President Kovind has appointed 5 New Governors.

On 1st October 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed five new governors for the states of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. He also appointed the Lieutenant Governor for Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Banwarilal Purohit has been appointed as the new Governor of Tamil Nadu. He will succeed C. Vidyasagar Rao, who held additional responsibility for Tamil Nadu along with Maharashtra. Brigadier (Retd.) BD Mishra has been appointed Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Satya Pal Malik has been appointed as the Governor of Bihar, Jagdish Mukhi has been appointed as the Governor of Assam and Ganga Prasad has been appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya. Besides this, Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi has been appointed as the Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar.

Aparna Kumar: First Indian Woman to Scale Mount Manaslu.

IPS Officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre, Aparna Kumar has become the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu. Mt Manaslu is the 8th highest mountain peak in the world. In September 2017, she took up a mission to climb Mount Manaslu in the west-central part of Nepal. Kumar has already successfully scaled the highest peaks of six continents out of seven continents. In May last year, she climbed Mount Everest before scaling Mount Vinson Massif, the highest peak in Antarctica. She started her mountaineering passion in the year 2013 when she was posted at UP's Moradabad. She enrolled herself in the basic mountaineering course at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Mana. In 2014, she scaled Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest peak on the African continent.

First Woman Chief Justice to head panel on OBC Sub Categorisation :

G Rohini. Retired justice G Rohini would head the five-member commission to examine the politically-sensitive issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and give its report within 3 months. President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed the commission under Justice G Rohini, who has the distinction of being first woman Chief Justice of Delhi high court. The decision to select the commission was taken after the 23rd August Cabinet decision to analyze the degree of biased dispersion of benefits of reservation among caste, communities, incorporated into the general class of OBC. Currently, there is no sub-categorization and 27 percent reservation is a gigantic entity. The sub-categorization within OBC list would mean a more reasonable allocation of reservation as per statistical population. The roles of the commission are : It would work out the mechanism, norms, criteria and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such OBCs and take up the exercise of recognizing the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBCs and classifying them into their respective subcategories.

NHAI Launches new Website and PMIS Mobile Application.

On 3rd October 2017, the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India Shri (NHAI), Deepak Kumar has launched a world class, new multilingual website of the organization. He said the “within two months it will be possible for the general public to rate National Highways through this website.” He also launched a Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App that will facilitate close, in-house monitoring of NHAI projects on a mobile phone. The NHAI website has been developed using state-of-art technologies and provides a centralized platform wherein NHAI’s different software and applications are combined together and available for browsing in a user friendly manner.

Prime Minister lays foundation stone of AIIMS, IIIT in Himachal Pradesh.

On 3rd October 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the All India Medical Science (AIIMS) and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) in Bilaspur of Himachal Pradesh. The AIIMS is proposed to be built upon an area of 205 acres at Kothipura. The 750 bedded health facility would cost Rs 1,350 crore and produce 100 MBBS doctors and 60 nurses every year. The institute is expected to be commissioned in four years. The IIIT will be established at Salho in Una. The institute is to come up at 69 acres and would cost around Rs 128 crore. Besides this, he also inaugurated a Steel Processing Unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), at Kandrori in Kangra.

Six-year secure Himalaya Project launched.

The Centre on 2nd October 2017 has launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. The project was launched by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the prime components of the project. The project will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime. The project includes Changthang (Jammu and Kashmir), Lahaul - Pangi and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Gangotri - Govind and Darma - Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Kanchenjunga - Upper Teesta Valley (Sikkim).

Turtle Sanctuary will be set up in Allahabad.

On 4th October 2017, the union government has approved the development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam under Namami Gange programme to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from growing anthropogenic pressures. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 1.34 crore and it would also include the expansion of River Biodiversity park at Sangam and establishment of a Turtle Rearing center at Triveni Pushp. This project will make the people understand their place in the ecosystem, improve their understanding of the complexity of co-existence with the environment, their task and responsibilities, and help generate awareness for reducing the impact of human actions on crucial natural resources.

Rajnish Kumar: New chairman of SBI.

On 4th October 2017, Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new chairman of the State Bank of India for the period of three years. He will succeed Arundhati Bhattacharya, who is set to retire on 6 October 2017. Currently, kumar is one of the Managing Directors of SBI. 59-year-old kumar has joined SBI board on 26th May 2015. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Capital Markets Limited. He has also worked as Chief General Manager, Project Finance and Leasing Strategic Business Unit.

India reveals the 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031.

The government of India has revealed the 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031. According to the press release of Ministry of Environment and Forests the highlights of the Third National Wildlife Action Plan are:

- ♦ The Plan is based on the foundation that ecological processes that are governed, supported or strongly moderated by ecosystems are essential for food production, health and other aspects of human survival and sustainable development. So, maintenance of these ecosystems that can be termed as 'Life Support Systems' is vital for all societies regardless of their stage of development.
- ♦ It also emphasizes on other two aspects of living resource conservation that is, preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems which has a direct bearing on our scientific advancements and support to millions of rural communities.
- ♦ It additionally underlines on other two parts of living resource preservation namely, conservation of genetic diversity and sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems which has a direct bearing on our scientific progressions and support to a million rural communities.
- ♦ The plan implements landscape approach in the preservation of all uncultivated flora and undomesticated fauna that has ecological value to mankind irrespective of where they occur.
- ♦ It accords special emphasis to the rehabilitation of endangered species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include coastal, inland aquatic and marine eco-systems.
- ♦ It also takes note of apprehension relating to climate change on wildlife by integrating it into wildlife management Planning.

- ♦ It also emphasises on the fact that despite being one of 12 mega biodiversity countries of the world, national planning has not taken serious note of adverse ecological consequences of reduction and degradation of wilderness areas from the pressures of commercialization, population and development projects.

Committee Set up for Water Management in North-east.

On 4th October 2017, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the northeastern states. The committee will be headed by the vice-chairman of Niti Aayog, Rajiv Kumar. It would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydroelectric power, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and ecotourism. The committee will submit its report by June 2018. It is also tasked with spelling out actionable steps for optimising water resources in the northeast and chalking out an action plan for coinciding of the schemes of Union ministries concerned.

India's renewable energy capacity to double by 2022: IEA.

According to the latest renewables market analysis and forecast report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), India's renewable energy capacity will be more than double by 2022. As per the recent government data, India's renewable energy installed capacity is 58.30 GW. The government has an ambitious goal of increasing it to 175 GW by 2022 including 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy. IEA said that the solar PV and wind together represent 90 percent of India's capacity growth as auctions yielded some of the world's lowest prices for both technologies.

India and Ethiopia ink agreements on trade, communication.

On 5th October 2017, India and Ethiopia inked agreements on trade, communication and media to boost bilateral ties. The agreements were signed in the presence of President of India, Ram Nath Kovind and the President of Ethiopia, Mulatu Teshome at the National Palace in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. According to the agreements, India will provide a credit line to the tune of USD 95 million to Ethiopia for an electric transmission line. He also announced a grant of USD 2 million for the purchase of food grains and referred to India as among the top three sources of foreign direct investment for Ethiopia. This is the first time in 40 years that an Indian presidential delegation has visited Ethiopia ever since former President V V Giri's trip in 1972.

PC Narayan has been chosen for 'Teaching Innovator Award-2016'.

On 6th October 2017, PC Narayan, faculty from the Finance and Accounting at IIM Bangalore has been chosen for the 'Teaching Innovator Award-2016' by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Award will be presented at a ceremony by the MHRD. The teaching innovation that fetched Narayan the award was titled "Transitioning from a 'Teacher-centric' to a 'Student-centric' Classroom and Online Learning". It involved innovative use of his 120+ MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) videos in a 'flipped classroom' format for the courses that Narayan teaches. Prof. P C Narayan is among six others, across India, selected for the award. Prof. P D Jose, faculty from the Strategy area at IIMB. Prof. Ramya Ranganathan, from the Organizational Behaviour and Human Resource Management area at IIMB, were among the 15 finalists for the Award.

Vijaya Bank signs MoU with HPCL for Digital Payments.

On 7th October 2017, Vijaya Bank has inked a MoU with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions. This agreement will empower all petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel to accept digital payments. Now, the customer can make payments by scanning a payment QR code, using BHIM Vijaya or any BHIM app that supports payments via UPI. Both have inked the agreement inline with the GOI initiative to encourage digital payments, especially BHIM/UPI.

Major Changes of GST.

Three months after rolling out the Goods and Services Tax, the GST council on 7th October 2017 carried out major changes to the new national tax regime to ease compliance norms for small and medium companies and reduced tax rates on nearly two dozen items. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has also announced businesses with a turnover of up to 1.5 crores would be allowed quarterly filings. While the main focus was on reducing the compliance burden for a majority of taxpayers who contribute a minuscule part of the revenue, the move to reduce the rate on man-made fibre was meant to comfort businessmen in states such as Gujarat. In addition, the government has allowed traders, manufacturers and restaurants with turnover of up to Rs 1 crore, instead of the Rs 75-lakh cap earlier, to opt for the composition scheme that will reduce their compliance burden by paying a flat rate of tax ranging between 1% and 5%. In addition, the deadline for the reverse charge mechanism was also extended. There was also a major relief package for exporters, who have been complaining of funds getting locked up due to the absence of refunds and tax credits. Jaitley acknowledged that funds were blocked, impacting the cash liquidity of exporters. As a result, the GST Council has decided to exempt those covered by the advance authorisation scheme, export promotion capital goods or 100% export-oriented units from paying taxes on inputs till March. Merchant exporters will pay 0.1% GST for purchases from domestic players.

Source

Time of India

Territorial Army celebrates its 68th Raising Day.

Territorial Army is celebrating its 68th Raising Day on 09 October 2017. As a lead up to the occasion, TA symphony Band performed at the iconic India Gate on 08 October 2017. The event was organized to showcase the Territorial Army, motivate the citizens of the country and inculcate a spirit of National Integration. Raised in 2009, the Symphony Band draws its strength from troops pooled in from several Territorial Army units. Consisting of 40 musicians it was raised as the symbolic representation of 'Unity in Diversity' which is the essence of 'Territorial Army' also popularly known as the Citizen's Army. The army was established by the first Indian Governor-General of India, C Rajagopalachari on 9 October 1949, after the Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948. The Indian Territorial Army (TA) is the second line of defence after Indian Army. The current role of the TA is to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist the civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where the life of communities is affected or the security of the country is threatened.

First Marine Police Training Institute will be set up.

On 7th October 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the setting up of the country's first "Marine Police Training Institute" at the newly created Dev Bhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat. It will be set up near Modak. On this occasion PM said that "For the security of our coasts we are working to modernise our marine police force. The training will be different compared to the training to the police force, because they will be connected to providing security within 5 kilometers boundary along the coastline." He also said that "the institute will train marine police force the way IAF (Indian Air Force) trains its pilots at Jamnagar".

Ashish Srivastava appointed as new MD & CEO of PNB MetLife.

On 9th October 2017, Ashish Srivastava has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB MetLife India Insurance. He will lead all aspects of the business in the country. Prior to this, he served an interim CEO at PNB MetLife. He joined PNB MetLife in 2013 as the Head of HR. Prior to joining PNB MetLife, he was a Board member at Canara HSBC Oriental Life Insurance Company.

D Shivakumar resigns as CEO of PepsiCo India.

D Shivakumar, PepsiCo India Chairman and CEO resigned from his post on 10th October 2017. After his resignation, Ahmed El Sheikh is the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PepsiCo India. Currently, he is serving as senior vice-president and general manager for PepsiCo Egypt and Jordan. Shivakumar served for almost four years with the beverage maker, overseeing the company's operation across India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Now, he is expected to join Aditya Birla Group as Head, Corporate Strategy and Business Development in three months and will report directly to Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla.

RBI will launch Financial Literacy Drive in 9 States.

The Reserve Bank of India is all set to launch a Financial Literacy Drive to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases. The drive will be launched in 80 blocks in 9 states on the pilot basis. To execute this plan, RBI has selected six NGOs. The six organizations are- CRISIL Foundation, Dhan Foundation, Swadhaar Finaccess, Indian School of Micro Finance for Women (ISMW), Samarjit and the PACE Foundation. Nine states that are chosen for the drive are- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The main aim of this drive is to inculcate the habit of making a household budget and recording financial transactions, encourage transactions in savings accounts, and active saving by depositing in banks through fixed deposits and recurring deposits.

IIT Kharagpur inks MoU with Samsung for Digital Academy.

On 10th October 2017, IIT-Kharagpur has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung India for the setting up of a digital academy on the institute's campus. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the institute will host the Samsung Innovation Lab and train students on the Internet of Things (IoT) through Tizen-based operating systems, commonly used by the company for its mobile phones and home appliances. The academy was a part of the company's corporate social initiative that aims at bridging the digital divide in the country by imparting skills to students on cutting-edge technology. Through this partnership with IIT-KGP, the academy planned to train over 100 students in the next three years. IIT-KGP Director Partha Pratim Chakrabarti said, "The partnership will help our students in developing their skills in the emerging areas of IoT and Artificial Intelligence."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Human Capital Report 2017 is out.

On 13th September the World Economic Forum (WEF) has put out the Global Human Capital Report 2017. The Index provided world's talent potential and proposed a new benchmark for leaders to assemble the workforces of the future. It has given holistic assessment of a 130 countries' human capital. In this report Norway, Finland and Switzerland occupied the top three spots which shows how well they are developing and deploying their human capital potential. They were followed by United States (4th), Denmark (5th), Germany (6th), New Zealand (7th), Sweden (8th), Slovenia (9th) and Austria (10th) to complete the top ten list. In this report among South Asian nations, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan held 70th, 98th, 103rd, 111th and 125th positions respectively. Last was Yemen which occupied 130th spot. These ranks implied that these nations need to work on development of their human capital. In context to India it is worth registering that although the current

educational attainment rate has improved remarkably over past generations but its youth literacy rate is still stagnant at 89%.

The Flares of North Korean missile heated Japan.

On 15th September North Korea test fired an intermediate-range missile over Japan into the northern Pacific Ocean. The missile travelled about 3,700 kilometers and reached a maximum height of 770 kilometers. U.S. and South Korean militaries are viewing this as clear message of defiance. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis both condemned it as a reckless act. It is worth registering here that North Korea launched this ballistic missile over Japan as a reply to new UN sanctions. The United Nations Security Council has recently imposed an 8th set of measures on North Korea over its ballistic missile and atomic weapons programmes.

Frank Vincent signed off the movie of life.

On 14th September 'Sopranos' actor, Frank Vincent passed away at the age of 80. He had played tough guys and mobsters in "The Sopranos" and in many other movies of director Martin Scorsese. He was a Legendary Actor and accomplished Musician who portrayed Phil Leotardo for many seasons in the HBO drama, and memorably co-starred as Billy Batts in Scorsese's "Goodfellas" . Prior to that he made appearance in "Casino" and "Raging Bull." He had also authored the nonfiction book "A Guy's Guide to Being a Man's Man."

Ban Ki-moon : The New Chair of the IOC Ethics Commission.

On 14th September Former UN Secretary-General got chosen as Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for upcoming four-years. IOC Executive Board proposed his name for the post and the proposal received approval during the IOC Session in Lima with a 74-4 majority. He has succeeded Youssoupha Ndiaye of Senegal. Ban shared a close relationship with the IOC as he played important role in granting Permanent Observer Status to IOC in year 2009 at UN. The chosen man has also been the Olympic torch bearer.

Chakma & Hajong refugees will soon be Indian citizens.

In September 2017 the Government of India announced Indian citizenship for one lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees, who hailed from the erstwhile East Pakistan 50 years back. Currently the refugees are guests of Northeast India. The Chakmas are ethnic groups divided into 46 clans or Gozas having their own language, customs and culture, and profess Theravada Buddhism while the Hajong people are tribal people of North-eastern India and Bengal holding the status of a Scheduled Tribe in India.

Maria wrote “Unstoppable: My Life So Far.”

September 2017 witnessed release of Russian professional tennis player, Maria Sharapova's book titled "Unstoppable: My Life So Far". The book talks about the dawn of Sharapova's tennis stardom and her constant struggle to stay on the top. The book reveals how the seventeen-year-old became an overnight sensation after defeating the two-time defending champion Serena Williams to win the prestigious Wimbledon. The book encompasses her pivotal matches and illuminates her equations with coaches, best friends, boyfriends, and Yuri, her coach, manager, father and her most dedicated fans. She became the world No. 1 for the first time on 22nd August 2005, at the age of 18.

Actor Harry Dean signed contract of death.

On 15th September Famous actor Harry Dean Stanton of movies like Godfather II, Alien, Cool Hand Luke passed away at the age of 91 in Los Angeles. The Kentucky-born star had appeared in dozens of films in his six decade long career. Recently he was seen in the hit HBO show Big Love and this year's revival of the cult classic Twin Peaks.

16 September oozed as International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

This day was celebrated across the globe on 'Caring for all life under the sun' theme. On this occasion the Ozone Secretariat started a communication campaign #OzoneHeroes. Year 2017 marked 30th anniversary of signing of the 'Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer'. On 16th September 2009, the Montreal Protocol along with Vienna Convention became the first treaty in the history of the United Nations to achieve Universal approval. The protocol advocates control of nearly 100 chemicals in various categories. For each group of chemicals, the treaty determined a timetable for the phase-out of production and consumption of the listed substances.

Mercedes Aráoz Fernández became Prime Minister of Peru.

On 18th September the President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski appointed a former Economy Minister, Mercedes Aráoz Fernández as the new Prime Minister of Peru. Araoz has succeeded Fernando Zavala, who lost the vote of confidence on 15th September 2017. Mercedes is also a lawmaker and one of Peru's two Vice Presidents who served in capacity of Economy Minister from 2006-11 during administration of President Alan Garcia. All 19 ministers in the previous Cabinet were forced to resign under Peru's constitution because of the no-confidence vote. However, President Kuczynski reappointed 6 of the 19 ministers in the previous Cabinet.

Mark Beaumont made new World Record

On 18th September British Cyclist Mark Beaumont has broken the world record for cycling around the world by 44 days. He started from Perthshire, Scotland and reached Paris, France via 18,000-mile route in 79 days through cycle. The cyclist was also awarded the Guinness World Records title for the most miles cycled in a month, from Paris to Perth in Australia, which was verified at 7,031 miles (11,315km). In the first stage he traversed Europe, Russia, Mongolia, and Beijing. In the second stage he travelled across Australia and New Zealand and in stage three he began from Anchorage passed Alaska and finished in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Then he flew back to Lisbon and pedalled north to Paris. He has broken record of New Zealander Andrew Nicholson's 123 days, which he established in 2015. Prior to this he had set record of completing the journey in 195 days in year 2008 which was later broken by other cyclists.

Mindtree's first International Hub grew in New Jersey.

Bengaluru based Technology services and digital transformation company, Mindtree inaugurated its first international Digital Pumpkin innovation hub at Warren Township in New Jersey, USA. The hub is in purpose of uniting multi-disciplinary team of experts from Mindtree and start-ups. The Digital Pumpkin portfolio is concerned with solutions around Internet of Things, artificial Intelligence, cognitive solutions, virtual and augmented reality, machine learning, conversational, cloud and big data.

Bright future has cast darkness in Iceland Prime Minister's life.

In September 2017 Iceland prime minister Bjarni Benediktsson tabled his resignation. The story reveals that Benediktsson had taken charge of office in January, uniting his Independence Party, the Reform Party and the centrists. But quitting of a small centrist party, 'Bright Future', from the ruling coalition made PM lose his 9-

month-old, center-right coalition and thus he was forced to resign from the post. The seed of the event lies in the fact that prime minister's father attempted to help clear the name of a convicted pedophile. He had written a letter urging a pardon for Hjalti Sigurjon Hauksson, who was convicted in year 2004 of raping his step-daughter almost every day for 12 years. And when it emerged that some government members had kept information from the public about the letter seeking to clear Hauksson's record, Bright Future immediately decided to quit. Now the new elections for the vacant seat are likely to take place on 4th November 2017.

Indian yoga experts appeared on Japanese postage stamps.

On 17th September Japan released postage stamps featuring Bishnu Charan Ghosh and his family members for the role they played in spreading postural yoga in Japan. The Land of Rising Sun has acknowledged yoga legend Bishnu Charan Ghosh, his son Biswanath Ghosh, daughter Karuna Ghosh and Karuna's father in law Asutosh Ghosh who are Bengal's four famous exponents of the ancient Indian practice. Masayuki Taga, the Japanese Consul General in Kolkata displayed these stamps in Kolkata. On this occasion he applauded the fruitful exchange between Indian postural yoga and Japanese martial art and extended good wishes to the Indian martial artists who will be performing at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

United Nations' Peace Prize travelled towards Zannah Mustaph.

On 18th September Nigerian lawyer, Zannah Mustaph was honored with United Nations' Peace Prize, "UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award" for his "crucial mediating" role. The awardee helped secure the release of more than 100 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram. He is founder of the 'Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School' which acts like is a lifeline for children in conflict-riven and impoverished northeast Nigeria. UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award was instituted in 1954. It is given every year by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to an individual, group, or organization for outstanding service to the cause of refugees, displaced or stateless people. The award has a commemorative medal, the Nansen Medal, and 100,000 USD monetary prize.

Raquel Dodge : First woman General Prosecutor of Brazil.

On 18th September 2017, Raquel Dodge has been appointed as the first woman General Prosecutor of Brazil. She replaced Rodrigo Janot, who held the same position for four years. Prior to this, Raquel Dodge served as the sub-prosecutor general of the Republic. She also served in the Superior Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office and was coordinator of the Criminal Chamber of the Public Prosecutor's Office. Her appointment was approved by the Senate with 74 votes.

Three Indians Among World's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'.

Three Indian entrepreneurial legends, Ratan Tata, Tata Group's chairman, Lakshmi Mittal, chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal and Vinod Khosla, co-founder of Sun Microsystems have been included in Forbes's special list of the world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'. Besides this, some of the other notable honourees featured on the world's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds list include: Giorgio Armani, Jeff Bezos, Michael Bloomberg, Bono, Richard Branson, Warren Buffett, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Jack Dorsey, Bill Gates, Paul McCartney, Rupert Murdoch, Elon Musk, Miuccia Prada, Shonda Rhimes, Sheryl Sandberg, Carlos Slim, Donald Trump, Ted Turner, Oprah Winfrey, Jack Welch, Mark Zuckerberg. In developing the list, Forbes sought people who have either created something with a lasting impact on the world or innovated in a way that transcends their given field.

Ana Carrasco : First Woman to win World Championship Motorcycle Race.

Ana Carrasco has become the first woman to win a world championship motorcycle race in Portimao, Portugal in September 2017. The 20-year-old Spaniard finished the race in 0.053secs to win round 10 of the FIM Supersport 300 World Championship. Apart from this Italy's Alfonso Coppola and Spain's Marc Garcia concluded the race at second and third positions respectively. Ana Carrasco is just 20 years old and has been riding the international competition since 2013.

World's fastest bullet train whistled in China.

On 21st September China brought on track world's fastest bullet train, 'Fuxing' between Beijing and Shanghai. It travelled at speed of 350 kilometres per hour, from Beijing to Shanghai cutting the Beijing-Shanghai journey to 4 hours 28 minutes. It is also known as electric multiple units (EMU), which has potential of travelling with speed of 400 kilometres per hour. Fuxing is said to have a 30-year life which is 10 years more than the existing model plus it consumes 10% less power at speed of 350 kilometer per hour. It is native of China. It has a sophisticated monitoring system that constantly checks its performance and automatically slows the train in case of emergencies or abnormal conditions. It is well equipped with advanced shock and crash energy absorption equipment to avoid damage to carriages and fatalities. It has WiFi facility and power sockets for passenger convenience.

India has become the top retail destination of world.

According to global retail development index, India has become the top numero uno retail destination in 2017. In this race it has left China behind. The bigger retailer and brands and the mid-size brands across the globe have begun to invest in the relaxed retail policy in India. According to experts increased consumer spending beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favourable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction have triggered the entry of global brands into India. Korres, Migato, Evisu, Wallstreet English, Pasta Mania, Lush Addiction, Melting Pot, Yogurt Lab and Monnalisa, Metro, Walmart, Booker, Thailand's Siam Makro and Swedish-furniture maker Ikea are the brands which have knocked the Indian door.

L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt reached Lord.

On 21st September World's richest woman and L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt died at 94 in Paris. The faded beauty was child of Louise Madelaine Berthe and Eugene Schueller, who founded L'Oreal. In year 2016, Bettencourt was ranked as the richest woman of the globe with a fortune of USD 39.5bn by Forbes magazine and that made her the world's 14th richest person. The deceased suffered from dementia and Alzheimer's disease since 2006.

Angela Merkel continues to be the Chancellor of Germany for the 4th term.

On 25th September as per the exit polls, Merkel scored 33% of the votes with her conservative Christian Union (CDU-CSU) bloc and became Chancellor of Germany for 4th term. Although this had been the worst result for conservative CDU/CSU bloc in almost 70 years yet it remains the largest in parliament. Its nearest rivals, the Social Democrats and their candidate Martin Schulz, managed a distant second position with 20-21% votes. The anti-Islam, anti-immigration, hard-right nationalist party, Alternative for Germany (AfD) succeeded in scoring 13% votes and with that it became the Germany's third biggest political force. Merkel who had been in power for 12 years views this as a big new challenge for her coalition and resolves to win AfD voters.

Massachusetts apprehends sixth mass extinction of Earth.

In September 2017 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) predicted Earth's sixth mass extinction by year 2100 on account of rising carbon pressure on oceans in its study titled 'Thresholds of catastrophe in the Earth System' in the international scientific journal Science Advances. According to Daniel H. Rothman, professor of geophysics at MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, the planet has suffered five mass extinctions in the past 540 million years. Professor employed a mathematical formula based on the rate and magnitude of change in the carbon cycle for this prediction. Oceans will have 310 gigatons of carbon for mass extermination of species by 2100.

2017 Von Hippel Award hopped towards C N R Rao.

29th November 2017 will be a red letter day for eminent scientist Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao as on this day he will become recipient of prestigious Von Hippel Award for year 2017 for his contribution in materials research that involves solid-state of matter and structural chemistry. The chosen man performed outstanding work on novel functional materials that include nanomaterials (having particles of nanoscale dimensions), graphene (the strongest and thinnest material) and 2D materials, superconductivity, and colossal magnetoresistance (change in electrical resistance of a material in a magnetic field). Prior to this in year 2014, he was honored with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India. Now he has got entitled to USD 10000 cash prize which is US-based Materials Research Society's (MRS) highest honour. It is worth knowing that Von Hippel Award was named after Arthur von Hippel, who was a pioneer in the study of dielectrics, semiconductors, ferromagnetics and ferroelectrics.

Mary Kom: AIBA representative at IOC Athletes' Forum.

September 2017 spelled representativenesship of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) at the IOC Athletes' Forum for Olympic Indian boxer Chungneijang Mery Kom Hmangte or "Mary Kom". With that this boxer of Manipur tribe has become the first Indian to get chosen as AIBA representative at the upcoming 8th International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from 11 November to 13 November 2017. Her career as boxer reveals that she is a five-time World Amateur Boxing champion, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six world championships. She is the only Indian woman boxer who qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics, competing in the flyweight (51 kg) category and winning the bronze medal plus she is a gold medalist of 2014 Asian Games of Incheon, South Korea. She has also been ranked No. 4 in AIBA World Women's Ranking in Flyweight category.

The Rewritten rules of the game of cricket.....

The dawn of 28th September will bid the new rules of cricket introduced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The new rules are about bat thickness, player conduct, DRS, run outs and catches. The Zee News captured the major excerpts from the release as follows:

1. To maintain the balance between bat and ball, the playing conditions now restrict the size of the edges of the bats as well as their thickness. The restriction on the length and width of bats remain unchanged but the thickness of the edges can't be more than 40mm and the overall depth can be 67 mm at the most.
2. In a new playing condition pertaining to players' conduct, a player can now be sent off the field for the rest of the match for any serious misconduct, meaning it will apply to Level 4 offences while the Level 1 to 3 offences will continue to be dealt with under the ICC Code of Conduct. Threatening to assault an umpire,

making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with an umpire, physically assaulting a player or any other person and committing any other act of violence all constitute Level 4 offences.

3. The above changes will be applicable across all formats, as will be a change in the DRS rules by which a review will now not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an ‘umpire’s call’. As for DRS in Test matches, there will be no more top-up reviews after 80 overs of an innings, meaning that there can only be two unsuccessful reviews in each innings, while the DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is.
4. An important change with respect to run outs is that if a batsman is running or diving towards the crease with forward momentum, and has grounded his/her bat behind the popping crease but subsequently has lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down, the batsman will not be run out.
5. For boundary catches, airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise, a boundary will be scored. Also, a batsman can now be out caught, stumped or run out even if the ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.

Snap elections will come running at Shinzo’s call.

On 25th September Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced snap elections, a year earlier to its slated time. The Prime Minister will dissolve parliament’s lower house on 28th September, seeking a stronger mandate and support for his tough stance towards the increasing threats from North Korea following its illegal ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programme. It is worth recalling that North Korea fired two ballistic missiles over Japan twice in the last month and conducted its sixth and biggest nuclear test on 3rd September 2017. Besides this North Korea also issued an explicit threat to Japan, saying that it would sink it by using a nuclear bomb. With an aim of retaining majority for his coalition, Abe wishes to take advantage of the higher opinion polls and the fragile and fractured opposition to sweep back into power. The exact date for the elections is still uncertain but it is most likely to take place on 22nd October 2017.

September 28th rolled as World Rabies Day.

Entire globe observed this day on “Rabies: Zero by 30” theme for creating awareness about rabies prevention. It is worth noticing here that this theme has been set to support a common goal of zero human deaths from canine rabies by 2030 which was agreed by the World Health Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and GARC at the global conference on rabies elimination in year 2015. GARC instituted this day to raise the profile of national and local control programmes as a springboard for year-round capacity building and awareness. The day every year presents an opportunity to play a part in ending unnecessary suffering and death caused by rabies.

Joao Lourenco became the new President of Angola.

On 26th September Joao Lourenco became the first new President of Angola in 38 years. The new President took place of former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who reigned Angola for almost 40 years. It is worth knowing here that Angola got independence in year 1975 and Jose Eduardo dos Santos became its President in year 1979. Before this Lourenco was the Minister of Defense from year 2014 to 2017. He had also been Vice-President of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) since 2016. Angola is the seventh-largest nation in Africa and its capital is Luanda. It has vast mineral and petroleum reserves.

WADA dismissed French anti-doping laboratory.

In September 2017 the French anti-doping laboratory of Chatenay-Malabry got provisionally suspended by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) because of analytical issues. The Paris Laboratory will not be able to carry any analysis of urine and blood samples now. World Anti-Doping Agency was established on 10th November 1999 in Lausanne, Switzerland via "Declaration of Lausanne." Scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code, whose provisions are enforced by the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport are the activities of WADA.

Indian lawyer Colin Gonsalves: Chosen for Swedish Right Livelihood Award.

On 1st October 2017, Indian lawyer Colin Gonsalves has been chosen for a prestigious Swedish right livelihood award. He is a senior Indian advocate and will be honoured for his innovative use of public interest litigation in securing fundamental human rights for India's most marginalised and vulnerable citizens. He will share the award and the prize money worth over USD 300,000 (SEK 3 million) with two other laureates Khadija Ismayilova from Azerbaijan and Robert Bilott from the United States. The prize was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull.

2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm. Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions. It is the 108th time the prize has been awarded and was announced at the Nobel Forum at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. The winners will share a prize of 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000), and each receives a medal engraved with their name.

30 September: International Translation Day.

The International Translation Day was observed globally for the first time on 30th September 2017. The main aim to celebrate this day is to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which play an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, contribute to the development and strengthens world peace and security. The Day also recognises transposition of a literary or scientific work from one language into another language as indispensable to preserve clarity, climate and productiveness in international public communication.

Brenda Hale: First Female President of UK's Supreme Court.

On 2nd October 2017, Brenda Hale of Richmond has become the first female President of Supreme Court in the United Kingdom. She succeeded David Neuberger. 72-year-old Hale was born in Yorkshire. Prior to this, she served as Supreme Court's first female Justice from its opening in 2009. Four years later, she took the post of deputy president. She is also the second woman who was promoted to the Court of Appeal and first female Law Lord.

2017 Nobel Prize in Physics has declared.

The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to three scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S for their decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves. The Prize announced by Sweden's Royal Academy of Sciences comes with 9 million kronor (\$1.1 million). For the past 25 years, the prize has been shared among multiple winners. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement on the awarding. "A wealth of discoveries awaits those who succeed in capturing the waves and interpreting their message."

India & Nepal will conduct first joint tiger count.

For the first time, Nepal and India will commence a joint tiger census from next month in their forests, national parks and protected areas neighboring the two countries by using globally-recognised method. Conservation authorities and specialist would install cameras at various places in tiger habitation and in buffer zones to capture and track the activities of the big cat. Parsa Wildlife Reserve of Nepal and the Chitwan National Park in Chitwan are adjoining to the Balmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar. Similarly, India's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary adjoins with Nepal's Bardia National Park and the India's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve adjoins with Shuklaphanta National Park in Nepal.

France government passed the new Anti-terror law.

On 3rd October 2017, France's lower house of parliament has passed a new anti-terrorism law intended to bring an end to a nearly two-year-long state of emergency. The law will incorporate several measures first authorized under the emergency arrangement. They include easier searches of homes and confining individuals to their hometowns, without judicial approval. The bill was approved by 415 votes to 127, with 19 abstentions, and is expected to become law before the latest state of emergency extension expires on 1 November. As per the law, authorities are also allowed to close down a mosque or other places of worship if preachers are spotted to have encouraged assaults, glorified terrorism or spread radical "ideas and theories."

India signs \$4.5 billion LoC deal with Bangladesh.

On 4th October 2017, India has signed \$4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with Bangladesh for the social sector development and infrastructure with Finance Minister Arun Jaitley vowing to back the country's developmental initiatives. The agreement was inked in the presence of India's Finance Minister Jaitley and the Bangladesh's Finance Minister A M A Muhith. The new Indian line of credit will be utilised to finance 17 major projects in Bangladesh, which include roads, electricity, railroads, shipping and ports. Bangladesh will pay an interest rate of 1% per year. It will have 20 years to pay back the loans, with a grace period of 5-years. Under this agreement, Bangladesh would have to procure 65 to 75% of the services, goods or works from the Indian market with the money to be provided under the third LoC.

2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

On 4th October 2017, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution". Jacques Dubochet is from University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Joachim Frank is from Columbia University, New York, USA and Richard Henderson is from MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK. The winners will share a prize of 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000), and each receives a medal engraved with their name.

Kazuo Ishiguro wins 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature.

On 5th October 2017, British author Kazuo Ishiguro has won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. The novelist was praised by the Swedish Academy as a writer "who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world". He has written eight books, which have been translated into over 40 languages. His most famous novels "The Remains of the Day" and "Never Let Me Go" were adapted into highly acclaimed films. He was made an OBE in 1995. Ishiguro was born in Japan.

Zafar Mahmood Abbasi: New Navy Chief of Pakistan.

Vice-Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi has been appointed as the new Navy Chief of Pakistan. He succeeded Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah. Vice Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in June 1981. The officer undertook initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, UK. On commissioning, the officer won the coveted Sword of Honour from Pakistan Naval Academy. Currently, he is serving as Chief of the Staff at Naval Headquarters. Prior to this, his key staff appointments were Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans), Chief Inspector (Navy) and Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (Operations).

Ukhnaa Khurelsukh: The New Prime Minister of Mongolia.

On the 4th October 2017, the Parliament of Mongolia has confirmed Ukhnaa Khurelsukh as the new Prime Minister of the country. He is the 30th Prime Minister of Mongolia. His confirmation comes after Jargaltulga Erdenebat was voted out of office over allegations of corruption and incompetence. Previously, he served in the army and after that, in 2000 he joined the parliament as a member.

World Space Week observed.

The World Space Week is observed all over the world from 4 October to 10th October. The theme for the year 2017 is 'Exploring New Worlds In Space'. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly announced that World Space Week will celebrate every year from 4 October to 10th October. The choice of dates was based on recognition of two important dates in space history: the launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on 4th October 1957 and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on 10th October 1967. World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world. It helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students, demonstrates visible public support for the space programme, educates the public about space activities, and fosters international cooperation in space outreach and education. Since 2007, more than 94 nations have participated in more than 2,250 events with more than 1.3 million attendees.

Anti-Nuclear Campaign ICAN Clinches 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons". The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize calls upon nuclear-armed states to initiate negotiations to the gradual elimination of the world's 15,000 nuclear weapons adding that ICAN has in the past year given the efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons a new direction and new vigour.

USA wins the first match in Under-17 World Cup.

On 7th October 2017, In their opening encounter of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup, India lost to the United States by three goals to Zero in Group A matches played at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. India will play their second Group A match against Colombia in Delhi on 9th October. In Group B fixtures at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, New Zealand drew with Turkey 1-1 while Paraguay beat Mali 3-2.

FIFA launches hindi Twitter account for U-17 World Cup.

On 5th October 2017, World football's governing body, FIFA has launched a Hindi twitter account for the U-17 World Cup. The U-17 World Cup, the first-ever FIFA competition to be hosted by India, launched the twitter account-- @FIFAHindi to cater to football fans in the most widely spoken language in the country. The account

will keep fans updated on the progress of the 52-match tournament, taking them on a journey across all six venues, as 24 teams compete for one trophy.

U.S. approves the sale of Rs. 98,000 crore THAAD missiles to Saudi Arabia.

On 7th October 2017, U.S. State Department has approved the possible sale of a THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-missile defence system to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$15 billion (Rs. 98,000 crore). The approval opens the way for Saudi Arabia to purchase to acquire 44 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launchers and 360 missiles, as well as fire control stations and radars. U.S. military sales to Saudi Arabia have come under increased scrutiny over the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen.

India & EU ink 3 agreements.

The 14th annual Summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. The summit witnessed discussions on a host of issues including ways to remove hurdles for the long-pending free trade agreement. They agreed to work together on Counter terrorism and terror financing. In a summit, following agreements were signed:

The first agreement is on the International Solar Coalition. European Investment Bank will provide 500 million euros for the construction of 18 new stations Rapid Transit Line of Bangalore Metro. The second agreement is on the Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million. The third agreement is the Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank. The agreements were exchanged in the presence of the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Economics noble to Thaler:

U.S. economist Richard Thaler won the 2017 Nobel Economics Prize for his contributions in the field of behavioural economics. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Monday announcing the 9 million Swedish crown (\$1.1 million) prize, "In total, Richard Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making. His empirical findings and theoretical insights have been instrumental in creating the new and rapidly expanding field of behavioural economics, which has had a profound impact on many areas of economic research and policy."

US Turkey suspend visa services :

The United States and Turkey on Sunday scaled back visa issuing services in each other's countries in a deepening diplomatic row sparked by the arrest of a Turkish staffer at the American mission in Istanbul. The American embassy in Ankara said that "recent events" forced the US government to reassess Turkey's "commitment" to the security of US mission services and personnel in the country. Non-immigrant visas are issued to all those travelling to the United States for tourism, medical treatment, business, temporary work or study. Immigrant visa services are only for those seeking to live in the US permanently. Turkey responded by suspending "all visa services" for Americans in the US, saying the measures also apply to visas issued online and at the border. The suspension in accepting applications for and issuing all normal visas is extremely unusual. US missions in Moscow in August suspended the issuing of non-immigrant visas for nine days and then scaled back operations.

Nisha Desai Biswal: New President of USIBC.

On 10th October 2017, Nisha Desai Biswal, former Indian-American assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia has been appointed as the new president of US India Business Council (USIBC). She will join the US Chamber on 23rd October 2017. As the assistant secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in the US Department of State from 2013 to 2017, Biswal oversaw the US-India strategic partnership during a period of unprecedented cooperation, including launching the US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. She was awarded the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award by the President in January 2017. Prior to this, she served as the Assistant Administrator for Asia at the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

International Day of the Girl Child celebrated globally.

International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated globally on 11th October 2017. The theme for year 2017 is “The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.” On December 2011 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution to declare 11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. On this occasion, Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi formed the panel discussion on the Role of Sports in the Empowerment of Girls in New Delhi. Sachin Tendulkar, Mithali Raj, Raspreet Sidhu, Ragini Sharma, Mana Mandlekar was also taken part in the panel discussion. In view of the Day, Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week from 09th to 14th of this month.

World Mental Health Day 2017.

The World Mental Health Day was globally observed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 10th October. The theme for the year 2017 is 'Mental health in the workplace'. The main aim to celebrate this day is to raise an awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work. Around the world, more than 300 million people suffer from depression and more than 260 million are living with anxiety disorders. The Day was first celebrated in the year 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries.

Facebook India MD Umang Bedi Quits.

In just over a year of joining Facebook as India’s Managing Director (MD), Umang Bedi has resigned from his post on 10th October 2017. Now, Sandeep Bhushan has been appointed as the interim Managing Director. He is a former Samsung IT and mobile business director, handled the new revenue streams from FMCG advertisers for Facebook across the region. Prior to the Samsung, he was vice president, digital for HT Media. Umang Bedi has joined Facebook India in July 2016, and was leading the company’s business operations in the South Asia region. Prior to joining Facebook, Umang served as Managing Director of the South Asia region at Adobe.

Sports News

2024 & 2028 Olympics chose Paris & Los Angeles for their respective appearances. International Olympic Committee (IOC) finalized names of Paris & Los Angeles for Olympics of 2024 and 2028 respectively. The two campaign teams had summarized their bids in presentations at the 131st IOC Session in Lima, Peru. Los Angeles had originally bid for 2024 Olympic games, but on account of the new date, it had to revise its host contract and in context to Paris, IOC granted this most coveted hostship for which it had been trying since year 2005. Paris last held the Olympics in year 1924. It implies that the 2024 olympics of Paris will mark the 100-year anniversary of its previous hosting.

India outshone Australia by 26 runs.

On 17th September India defeated Australia by 26 runs through D/L method in first ODI at MA Chidambaram stadium in Chennai. India won the toss and chose to bat first. India posted 281 runs for 7 wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. The match was special for the Dhoni as he scored 79 runs and completed the most coveted landmark of 100 international half-centuries across all three formats. With that he became the 13th cricketer in the history of international cricket to complete a ton of 50's. Besides him, Hardik Pandya scored 83 off 66 balls and Bhuvanesh Kumar contributed unbeaten 32. Due to rain Australia was given a revised target of 164 runs off 21 overs as per Duckworth/Lewis method which they failed to achieve. With that India took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

PV Sindhu chose Korea Open doorway to come into limelight.

On 17th September P V Sindhu defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in three sets 22-20, 11-21, 20-18 to win women's singles title at the Korea Open Super Series badminton tournament at Seoul. With this Sindhu became the first Indian to win the Korea Super Series crown and this was the third super series title of her career. In this season Sindhu had conquered the 2016 China Super Series Premier and India Super Series and Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold.

Asian Indoor Games unveiled silver medals for India.

On 22nd September Indian cyclist Deborah Herold won two Silver medals for India in 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. She coined one Silver medal in the six-lap Keirin event in track cycling. The girl from Andaman and Nicobar Islands won her first Silver medal in the 200 metres individual sprint race. Besides her India also clinched a Silver medal via Malaprabha Yallappa Jadhav in Women's Kurash, a Martial Arts event. With that so far India has reached 9th spot in the medals tally with 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze medals while the Host Turkmenistan is enjoying the top spot.

News from Slovenia Open TT.

24th September brought good news for India as Indian duo Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah coined gold in the doubles event of Slovenia Open Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis championship at Otocec, Slovenia. They outshone the top-seeded Chinese Taipei pair of Feng I-Hsin and Tai Ming-Wei by 11-7, 11-6, 17-15. Prior to this the gold winners had beaten compatriots Anukram Jain and Snehit Suravajjula by 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 11-7, 14-12 in the semi-final. Besides this another Indian Jeho Himnakulhpuingheta won the Cadet Boys singles semifinal by defeating Iran's Radin Khayyam by 11-5, 1-4, 11-9.

Vaishnavi Reddy booked Belgian Open badminton on her name.

On 24th September Vaishnavi Reddy defeated Vivien Sandorhazi by 21-19, 17-21, 21-12 in the final of U-19 Belgian Junior Open at Herstal, Belgium. Besides this in Ethiopia International, men's doubles pair of Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok defeated Jordanian pair of Bahaedeen Ahmad Alshannik and Mohd Naser Mansour in the finals by 21-6, 21-19 at the Ethiopian Youth Academy Gymnasium Hall to win this title. Apart from this in Polish International women's doubles, English pair of Jenny Moore and Victoria Williams defeated Indian pair Maneesha K and Arathi Sara Sunil in the finals at Bierun, Poland.

4th ODI got booked in Australia's name.

On 28th September Australia defeated India by 21 runs in 4th ODI match at Bengaluru. Australia won the toss and chose to bat first. It posted a target of 334 at loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. This match was the 100th ODI for David Warner who scored a spectacular hundred in it. Chasing the target India made 313 runs at loss of 8 wickets. With this loss India also lost its number one position in the latest ICC ODI rankings. This defeat has also spelled an end to India's nine-match winning streak in the 50-over format. With this South Africa has reclaim their number one spot and Australia has clung to its number three spot on account of this thrilling win after 11 successive defeats.

Viswanathan Anand finishes second at Isle of Man Chess Championship.

On 2nd October 2017, five-time World Champion, Viswanathan Anand finished second at the Isle of Man Chess Championship at Douglas. He defeated the Chinese grandmaster Hou Yifan in the 9th and final round. He took 53 moves to overpower Yifan to finish with 7 points. Anand shares his second position with Nakamura Hikaru from the United States of America. The championship was won by Magnus Carlsen, Norwegian chess grandmaster, who finished with 7.5 points after a short draw against Nakamura. Vidit Santosh Gujrathi and Swapnil S Dhopade finished at the joint third position with 6.5 points after playing out a draw against Hungarian Rapport Richard and Ukraine's Eljanov Pavel respectively.

Pooja Kadian has won gold in Wushu World Championships.

On 4th October 2017, Pooja Kadian of India has won the first-ever gold medal at Wushu World Championships in Kazan, Russia. In the final, she defeated the Evgeniya Stepanova. Other Indian winners are Rameshchandra Singh Moirangthem has won a bronze medal in the men's Sanda 48 kg category. Bhanu Pratap Singh and Rajinder Singh have also won the bronze medal in the men's 60 kg category and 90 kg category respectively. The last medal for India came from Arunpama Devi Keisham who won in the 65 kg Sanda category in the women's section after thrashing Switzerland's Pricilla Staubli 2-0 in the last-eight clash.

RMV Gurusaidutt wins Bulgarian International title.

On 9th October 2017, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist RMV Gurusaidutt has won the men's singles title at the Bulgarian International Future Series tournament. In the final match, he defeated Muhammad Ali Kurt by 21- 17, 21-16 points.

CURRENT AFFAIRS TESTS

1. Who was awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences?
(a) Stewart C. Myers (b) George F. Loewenstein
(c) Colin F Camerer (d) Richard H. Thaler
(e) None of these
2. Which among the following days is observed every year on 11th October?
(a) International Day of the Girl Child (b) International Day for Women
(c) World Heart Day (d) World Peace Day
(e) World Mental Health Day
3. Who has won the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship Title?
(a) Anupama Ramachandran (b) Keerthana Pandian
(c) Albina Leschuk (d) Sophia Beldenko
(e) Ishika Shah
4. United States has approved the possible sale of a THAAD anti-missile defence system to _____.
(a) Russia (b) Iran
(c) Iraq (d) Israel
(e) Saudi Arabia
5. Which among the following journalist has won Anna Politkovskaya Award?
(a) Barkha Dutt (b) Ravish Kumar
(c) Gauri Lankesh (d) Arnab Goswami
(e) Sudhir Chaudhary
6. Who among the following has won the Nobel Peace Prize 2017?
(a) National Institute of Technology
(b) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
(c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
(d) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
(e) None of these
7. The European Investment Bank (EIB) has inked the Finance agreement with India to loan _____ for Bengaluru Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6.
(a) € 200 million (b) € 400 million
(c) € 500 million (d) € 300 million
(e) € 600 million
8. Who among the following has topped the Forbes India Rich List 2017?
(a) Azim Premji (b) Acharya Balkrishna

- (c) Mukesh Ambani
(e) Hinduja Brothers
- (d) Lakshmi Mittal
9. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been elected as the Prime Minister of _____.
- (a) Hong Kong
(c) Taiwan
(e) Mongolia
- (b) Macau
(d) Malaysia
10. Who has won first ever gold medal at the Wushu World Championships 2017?
- (a) Reena Sardana
(c) Manisha Laur
(e) None of these
- (b) Pooja Kadian
(d) Kaman Bharadwaaj
11. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been elected as the Prime Minister of _____.
- (a) Hong Kong
(c) Taiwan
(e) Mongolia
- (b) Macau
(d) Malaysia
12. Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new chairman of _____.
- (a) Punjab National Bank
(c) Bank of India
(e) ICICI Bank
- (b) State Bank of India
(d) Bank of Baroda
13. What is the current repo rate, as per recently released 4th bi-monthly monetary policy review statement for the year 2017-18?
- (a) 6.1%
(c) 6.25%
(e) 6.20%
- (b) 6%
(d) 6.35%
14. Which among the following Indian entrepreneurs has clinched the prestigious “International Business Person of the Year award” in London for his innovative IT solutions?
- (a) Uday Lanje
(c) Madhira Srinivasu
(e) None of these
- (b) Birendra Sasmal
(d) Ranjan Kumar
15. The theme of the 2017 World Habitat Day (WHD) is _____.
- (a) Housing Policies: Affordable Homes
(b) Housing public spaces for all
(c) Housing & Climate Change Policies
(d) Housing at the Centre
(e) None of theses
16. What is the interest rate of the first Green Masala Bond to listed on the International Securities Market (ISM)?

- (a) 7.126% (b) 7.127%
(c) 7.128% (d) 7.125%
(e) 7.129%
17. Which among the following countries has begun collecting new "sin" taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks?
(a) United Kingdom (b) United States
(c) United Arab Emirates (d) Saudi Arabia
(e) Iran
18. Brenda Hale has become the first female President of Supreme Court in the _____.
(a) United States (b) United Kingdom
(c) Germany (d) Russia
(e) Saudi Arabia
19. Who became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu?
(a) Anupama Kumar (b) Anamika Kumar
(c) Annapurna Kumar (d) Anuradha Kumar
(e) Aparna Kumar
20. Who among the following has/have won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine?
(a) Michael W. Young (b) Michael Rosbash
(c) Jeffrey C. Hall (d) All of these
(e) None of these

ANSWERS

- 1.(d)** The 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Richard H. Thaler for his contributions to behavioural economics. He is a Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business.
- 2. (a)** International Day of the Girl Child is observed every year on 11th October. The theme for year 2017 is "The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030". The main aim of the day is to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.
- 3.(a)** Anupama Ramachandran of India has won the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia. In girls category, 2nd seed Anupama Ramachandran of India knocked out her compatriot and top seed Keerthana Pandian 3-1 to become World Open Under-16 champion.
- 4.(e)** United States has approved the possible sale of a THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-missile defence system to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$15 billion (Rs. 98,000 crore). The deal includes 44 THAAD launchers and 360 missiles along with fire control stations and radars.

- 5.(c)** Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead by unknown assailants has been posthumously accorded with the prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War.
- 6. (c)** The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
- 7.(d)** The European Investment Bank (EIB) has inked the Finance agreement with India to loan € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6. The objective of the project is to bring in a quantum improvement in the transportation sector in the city in tandem with the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) and other modes of urban transport.
- 8.(c)** In the Forbes India Rich List 2017, Reliance Industries Limited chairman Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of \$38 billion has topped the list for the 10th consecutive year. The list is followed by Azim Premji who jumped two places with the net worth of \$19 billion. Hinduja brothers with the net worth of \$18.4 and Lakshmi Mittal with the net worth of \$16.5 are at third and fourth position respectively.
- 9.(e)** Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been elected as the 30th Prime Minister of Mongolia. The confirmation comes after Jargaltulga Erdenebat has lost the election. Previously, he served in the army and after that, in the year 2000 he joined the parliament as a member.
- 10.(b)** Pooja Kadian of India has won the first-ever gold medal at the Wushu World Championships 2017 in Kazan, Russia. In the final, she defeated the Evgeniya Stepanova.
- 11.(e)** Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been elected as the 30th Prime Minister of Mongolia. The confirmation comes after Jargaltulga Erdenebat has lost the election. Previously, he served in the army and after that, in the year 2000 he joined the parliament as a member.
- 12. (b)** Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new chairman of the State Bank of India for the period of three years. He succeeds Arundhati Bhattacharya. Currently, Kumar is one of the Managing Directors of SBI.
- 13.(b)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released its 4th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for the year 2017-18. According to the monetary policy statement, the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) has remain unchanged at 6%. The reverse repo rate, at which RBI borrows from banks will continue to be at 5.75%.
- 14.(b)** Birendra Sasmal, a Ghana-based Indian entrepreneur, has clinched a prestigious “International Business Person of the Year award” at the Asian Achievers Awards in London for his efforts to bring innovative IT solutions to Africa.
- 15.(a)** The World Habitat Day (WHD) is observed every year on 2nd October. The theme for the year 2017 is “Housing Policies: Affordable Homes”. The theme brings an attention to UN-Habitat’s mandate to

promote sustainable development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. The main aim to celebrate this day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities.

- 16.(d)** The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has launched a new Green Masala Bond on the London Stock Exchange's new International Securities Market to raise funds to finance renewable energy projects all over the India. The 5-year bond raised approximately \$300 million (Rs19.5 billion), with an interest rate of 7.125% and has become the first Green Masala Bond to be listed on the International Securities Market (ISM).
- 17.(c)** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has begun collecting new "sin" taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks. Tobacco and energy drinks will be taxed at 100 percent and soft drinks at 50 percent. All six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to begin collecting so-called VAT taxes.
- 18.(b)** Brenda Hale of Richmond has become the first female President in the Supreme Court of United Kingdom. She succeeded David Neuberger.
- 19.(e)** An Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre, Aparna Kumar became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu, which is the eighth highest mountain peak in the world.
- 20.(d)** The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm. Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions. The winners will share a prize of 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000), and each receives a medal engraved with their name.